

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 SSC-01
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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5379
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL
COMUSFORAZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJECT: PSD POLITICAL COMMITTEE RESIGNS

REF: LISBON 2611

SUMMARY: THE PSD POLITICAL COMMITTEE RESIGNED APRIL 8
SETTING THE STAGE FOR A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN SOUSA FRANCO-LED
MODERATES AND FORMER LEADER SA CARNEIRO. THE PARTY'S NATIONAL
COUNCIL WILL MEET APRIL 15-16 TO DECIDE ON NEXT STEPS IN THE
INTERNAL PARTY CONFRONTATION. END SUMMARY.

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1. POLITICAL COMMITTEE RESIGNS: IN A MOVE FORCED BY PSD
PRESIDENT SOUSA FRANCO, THE PARTY'S NATIONAL POLITICAL
COMMITTEE SUBMITTED ITS RESIGNATION APRIL 8 AND CALLED
FOR A MEETING OF THE PSD NATIONAL COUNCIL AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE. CITING SA CARNEIRO'S PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO
ITS POSITIONS POLITICAL COMMITTEE CONVOKED A NATIONAL COUNCIL
MEETING FOR APRIL 15-16 IN LISBON TO DECIDE NEXT STEPS.

IF THE COUNCIL AGREES TO ACCEPT THE COMMITTEE'S RESIGNATION,
ANOTHER PARTY CONGRESS, THE THIRD IN 18 MONTHS MIGHT
BE CONVENED IN 15-20 DAYS.

2. EXPECTATION BUILDS: BOTH SA CARNEIRO AND SOUSA FRANCO
AGREED TO REFRAIN FROM PUBLIC STATEMENTS UNTIL THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL MEETS. LOCAL AND REGIONAL PSD LEADERS ARE TROUBLED
AND CONFUSED BY THE PARTY'S INTERNAL CONFLICTS. PSD
SECRETARY GENERAL SERVULO CORREIA SPENT THE WEEKEND
ASSURING LOCAL LEADERS THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO HAND OVER
LEADERSHIP TO SA CARNEIRO BUT WISHED TO CLARIFY THE PARTY'S
INTERNAL SITUATION.

3. PRESIDENT DEFENDED: IN A THINLY-VEILED COUNTERATTACK
ON SA CARNEIRO'S RECENT CRITICISMS OF PRESIDENT EANES,
CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL CALLED THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST
EANES UNJUST AND UNDEMOCRATIC. AMARAL CITED PAST CRITICISMS
AND INSINUATIONS (GENERALLY BY SA CARNEIRO) THAT EANES
INSISTED ON A MINORITY PS GOVERNMENT; THAT HE WAS PLANNING
A PERUVIAN-STYLE COUP; THAT HE WAS PUSHING PCP INCLUSION IN
THE GOVERNMENT. AMARAL ALSO BLASTED THOSE WHO CRITICIZE
EANES FOR NOT BECOMING AN AMERICAN-OR FRENCH-STYLE
PRESIDENT WHEN NONE OF THE PARTIES, WHEN THEY BACKED THE
EANES CANDIDACY, HAD FAVORED A DOMINANT PRESIDENCY.

4. COMMENT: IT IS UNCLEAR AS YET WHETHER SA CARNEIRO
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WANTS TO RESUME PSD LEADERSHIP NOW, EITHER DIRECTLY OR
THROUGH PROXY. BUT SOUSA FRANCO AND THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP
WANT TO FORCE HIS HAND. SOUSA FRANCO AND COMPANY STAND
A BETTER CHANCE OF GETTING THEIR WAY IN THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL THAN IN A CONGRESS WHERE SA CARNEIRO'S
FRANK-AND-FILE SUPPORT WEIGHS HEAVILY.
BLOOMFIELD

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